

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The National Park Service has announced funding for two projects at the Pinnacles National Monument totaling up to \$13 million. The funds were included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"I have long argued that Pinnacles is a valuable asset to our region, both as a driver of tourism revenue and as a pristine region of geographic importance," said **Congressman Sam Farr** (D-Carmel), who last year introduced legislation to upgrade Pinnacles to National Park status. "These funds, which also integrate alternative energy technology, will further increase the utility and value of this land."

One of the Recovery Act projects will demolish and relocate the flood-prone maintenance and visitor facilities on the west side of the park, and the second will demolish and replace two trailers and a tent cabin.

"We have been working to improve west side facilities since flooding in the 1980's and 1990's have removed or destroyed them," said **Pinnacles Superintendent Eric Brunnemann**. "This is a project that we can be proud of as it protects park resources and provides improved facilities for our local and regional communities as well as for our national and international visitors."

In addition to creating jobs and improving park facilities, the project will be entirely off-grid. A photovoltaic system utilizing both roof-mounted and ground-rack mounted arrays will be integrated at the maintenance structure. The visitor center will employ passive and active solar components for heating and lighting.

The project will also encourage the selection of sustainably grown, harvested, produced and transported products and materials. Both projects are registered with U.S. Green Building Council for LEED certification and will meet or exceed the LEED Silver rating.

"Pinnacles isn't a huge park, but it would serve as a crown jewel in the National Park system," **Rep. Farr** said. "From its rich history of settlement to its rare flora and fauna to its imposing geographic formations, this is clearly an area that deserves protection and attention. I'm pleased that the economic stimulus is sending these funds to such a deserving project."

"Not only is Pinnacles an important tourist destination for our region," said **Soledad Chamber of Commerce President Lucy Jensen**, "but it's also a vital natural resource that we need to protect for the generations to come. We also look forward to the jobs that will be created thanks to this project."

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